

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00595 111329Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 OES-06 JUSE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 NRC-05 TRSE-00 /052 W
-----111947Z 124701 /46
R 110712Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TECH, IN
SUBJ: TARAPUR

REF; BOMBAY 497

1. J.C. SHAH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY HAS JUST CONFIRMED THROUGH THE LETTER WHOSE TEXT IS GIVEN BELOW THAT THE IAEC HAS OPTED FOR A SMALLER RECHARGE, TOTALLING ONLY 60 BUNDLES INSTEAD OF THE 85 FORSEEN AT THE TIME OF THE LAST/KEIFER STUDY. SHAH NOTES THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE "PREVAILING UNCERTAINTIES OF FRESH SUPPLIES (UF 6) AND STORAGE CONSTRAINTS." SHAH'S LETTER ALSO EMPHASIZES THAT THIS SMALLER RECHARGE MEANS A "SHORT CYCLE WITH ITS INHERENT PENALTY IN TERMS OF ANNUAL CAPACITY FACTORS." IN OTHER WORDS, THE ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO CUT BACK ON POWER OUTPUT AT TARAPUR DURING THE NEXT YEAR. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE

CCE/APA/39/77 MARCH 9, 1977

DEAR MR. COURTNEY

OUR PLAN FOR THE NEXT FUEL CYCLE OF UNIT 1 HAS JUST BEEN FINALISED AND I THOUGHT I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ITS BASIS AND IMPLICATIONS.

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OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. LAST AND MR. KIEFER LAST YEAR LED TO AN OPERATIONAL PLAN BASED ON EACH REFUELLING REQUIREMENT AT TARAPUR OF 85 BUNDLES, PROVIDING A FUEL CYCLE OF AROUND 220,000 MWD AND ALLOWING FOR SOME LEAKERS. THE SCHEDULE DRAWN ON THIS BASIS, OF COURSE, ASSUMED REGULAR INFLOW OF FRESH URANIUM AS WELL AS NO BOTTLENECKS STEMMING FROM SHORTAGE OF STORAGE SPACE FOR SPENT FUEL REMOVED FROM THE REACTORS.

IN COURSE OF THE CURRENT REFUELLING OF UNIT 1, 29 DEFECTIVE BUNDLES HAVE BEEN FOUND. CORE CALCULATIONS BASED ON THIS, AS WELL AS PROJECTIONS OF AVAILABLE STORAGE SPACE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR AS MANY AS SEVENTEEN REFUELLING ALTERNATIVES AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT EMPLOYING A SHORTER 179,000 MWD CYCLE, WHICH NEEDS 60 BUNDLES, OPTIMISES BOTH FUEL BURN-UPS (MWD PER SHORT TONNE) AS WELL AS THE TOTAL PERIOD FOR WHICH THE REACTORS CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER THE PREVAILING UNCERTAINTIES OF FRESH SUPPLIES AND STORAGE CONSTRAINTS. ACCORDINGLY, THIS APPROACH IS BEING ADOPTED FOR THE NEXT REFUELLING OF UNIT 1.

IN THE EVENT THE ABOVE UNCERTAINTIES CONTINUE, WHICH WE EARNESTLY HOPE WILL NOT BE THE CASE, WE MAY BE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THIS SHORT CYCLE IN FUTURE ALSO WITH ITS INHERENT PENALTY IN TERMS OF ANNUAL CAPACITY FACTORS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

SD./-J.C. SHAH

UNQUOTE.

COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BOMBAY00595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: UPGRADED PER MEMO FROM MEMO FROM CLAYTON E MCMNAWAY TO WILLIAM PRICE #P82-0081-1618
Executive Order: R1 19880621 MCMANAWAY, CLAYTON E
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P820081-1619, D770084-1116
Format: TEL
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770371/aaaacjxa.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07e03dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LOU
Reference: 77 BOMBAY 497
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3143337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARAPUR
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, IN, (SHAH, J C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07e03dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009